

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 2 and 3 contain allowable subject matter, on page 5 of the Official Action.

Upon entry of the above amendments claim 1 will have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 2, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Claims 1 and 3-6 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding objections and rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

On pages 2-5 of the Official Action, claims 1, 4, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by SHIMANO et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,889,748).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). In this regard, Applicant notes that claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 2, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable for at least this reason, as are claims 3, 4, 5 and 6 which depend therefrom. Applicant further submits that claims 3, 4, 5 and 6 recite additional subject matter which further defines over the prior art of record.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper at least for each and certainly for all of the above-noted reasons. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and an early indication of the allowance of all of the pending claims.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so.

Any amendments to the claims that have been made in this amendment, which do not narrow the scope of the claims, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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